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**Tuesday, June 24, 2008**

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# Macomb Twp. man accused of molesting autistic boys

By AMBER HUNT • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • June 24, 2008

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A 21-year-old Macomb Township man faces charges for allegedly molesting two young autistic brothers who were in his care.

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John Maltese, who works for an agency that offers extra care to families with autistic children, was arraigned Monday on two charges of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Authorities said he was caught on videotape molesting the boys, who had been in his care for nearly a year.

Maltese was arraigned Monday before Magistrate Michael Osaer in 41A District Court in Shelby Township. He posted 10% of a \$10,000 bond and was released from the Macomb County Jail on Monday night.

The boys were both younger than 4. Authorities declined to release more information about the victims to protect their identities.

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June 24, 2008

## Schneider: Man endures daughter's sexual assailant as neighbor

### Midday update

*John Schneider*  
*Lansing State Journal*

Put yourself in Bob Kuziak's shoes - knowing you could step out of your home at any time and come face-to-face with the man who sexually assaulted your 15-year-old daughter.

"I get sick to my gut every time I see him," Kuziak said. "It's a sickening feeling."

The assault occurred in 2003. The assailant, 38 at the time, was convicted and locked up. Two weeks ago, the man was paroled from prison. He re-entered society in a most unfortunate place - directly across the street from Kuziak's Lansing home.

"I live at 321," Kuziak said, "and he lives at 322."

As soon as he discovered that his daughter's assailant had become his neighbor, Kuziak complained to the state parole office and was told originally that nothing could be done. While state law prohibits convicted sex offenders from living within 1,000 feet of a school or child-care center, no law says a sex offender can't move across the street, or next door, to the victim's family - or, for that matter, the victim.

Kuziak decided that the block just wasn't big enough for both him and the man convicted of assaulting his daughter. Parole officials ultimately had a change of heart, but, ironically it was too late for Kuziak.

Read Wednesday's Lansing State Journal for more on this report.

Contact John Schneider at 377-1175 or [jschneider@lsj.com](mailto:jschneider@lsj.com).

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Tuesday, June 24, 2008

## Taylor man faces new sex charges

**Charges involving four boys filed against ice cream truck operator.**

**Tanveer Ali / The Detroit News**

**TAYLOR** -- The preliminary hearing of an ice cream truck operator who faces kidnapping and sexual conduct charges involving a 13-year-old boy was postponed Monday after he was arraigned on similar charges involving three other boys.

David Roark, 37, was initially arrested after a June 10 incident in which he took the boy to his home under the guise of performing garage work, said Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy's office. The boy was taken to a bedroom where he was handcuffed while being videotaped and fondled, authorities said. He was released after the taping was over.

Additional charges were filed against Roark after authorities learned of cases dating back to 2000 involving a 9-year-old and two 15-year-old boys.

All four boys were acquaintances of Roark and were lured to his home, where they were restrained, police said. The 9-year-old was handcuffed at various times over a two-year period, Worthy said. Later, when the boy was 15, he was again approached by Roark, who handcuffed him and held him in his basement for three hours, authorities said.

John May, manager of Romulus-based Koolie's Ice Cream, said Roark leased 14 trucks from his company and oversaw his own group of drivers. Roark usually did not drive the trucks, police said.



June 24, 2008

## Judge mulls request to withdraw guilty plea in slaying

### Midday update

*Kevin Grasha*

*Lansing State Journal*

A judge will decide whether to allow a 21-year-old Lansing man to withdraw his guilty plea in the shooting death of his girlfriend.

Jeffrey Scott Husband pleaded guilty in March to second-degree murder in the December 2006 shooting death of 18-year-old Vanessa Kay Pruitt.

At a hearing Monday in Ingham County Circuit Court that began in the afternoon and went until nearly 9 p.m., Husband said that a previous attorney misled him into pleading guilty and guaranteed his sentence would be 22 years in prison. Under state law, a second-degree murder conviction is punishable by up to life in prison.

Husband also said his former attorney, William Hankins Jr., made it clear the day before the March 13 plea hearing that he would not take the case to trial.

In an interview today, Hankins said Husband's story was a "complete and total fabrication."

"We were preparing for trial since December (before the plea hearing)," Hankins said. "The guy is playing the system, that's all he's doing."

It is not known when Judge James Giddings will make a decision.

"It is unfortunate that Mr. Husband's former lawyer has turned this into a competition over who can dump on whom, and it's made a difficult situation between the attorney and his former client and the circumstances surrounding this plea even worse," said Husband's new attorney, Mike Nichols.

He added: "It's pretty clear based on (Husband's) testimony what he believed when he entered into the plea agreement and fairly clear what his former lawyer believed was the law."

Pruitt was nine to 12 weeks pregnant when Husband shot her four times as her sister lay on top of her, trying to shield her, according to testimony at a preliminary hearing last year. The shooting happened at Pruitt's Delhi Township apartment.

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or [kgrasha@lsj.com](mailto:kgrasha@lsj.com).

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# Opening statements delivered in Waterford man's murder trial

By KORIE WILKINS • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • June 24, 2008

Opening statements were given and testimony began today in the first-degree murder trial of a Waterford Township man accused of killing his wife.

Police and prosecutors have said Edward Stenberg killed his wife, Laura Stenberg, 46, on Sept. 7, 2007 in their home. If convicted, he could face up to life in prison.

Edward Stenberg fled the state after his wife's death and was caught about three weeks later in Florida.

Jury selection in the trial before Oakland County Circuit Judge John J. McDonald began Monday.

Today, a forensic pathologist and a woman who was flagged down by Laura Stenberg's son shortly after the incident testified, court officials said.

The Stenbergs had been married seven years. In April 2007, Stenberg was released from the Oakland County jail after serving 10 months. He had pleaded no contest to beating Laura Stenberg with a blackjack in 2005.

He also has convictions dating to the 1960s for crimes such as drugs and weapons offenses.

# Abraham's attorney wants out, cites breakdown



BY KORIE WILKINS • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • June 24, 2008

Nathaniel Abraham's attorney no longer wants to represent his client and a judge Thursday is to consider removing him from the case and a motion filed by county prosecutors asking that Abraham be put back in jail for violating his bond.

According to court documents, Abraham's attorney, Richard Morgan Jr., filed a request to withdraw as counsel for Abraham on June 19, citing a breakdown of the attorney-client relationship. Morgan did not respond to calls today.

Abraham, 22, was arrested in Pontiac on felony drug charges May 30 with more than 200 Ecstasy pills. He gained notoriety as an 11-year-old after he shot and killed a Pontiac man. He was convicted of second degree murder and placed in a juvenile detention facility until his 21st birthday in 2007.

He is scheduled to appear Thursday before 50th District Judge Michael Martinez, when Martinez is expected to rule on an emergency motion filed June 20 by Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Beth Hand requesting that Abraham be jailed after making several unapproved visits to a gas station and two party stores in Pontiac and Waterford earlier this month.

Hand declined to comment today.

Abraham wears a GPS tether as part of his bond and is only allowed to leave his mother's home in Pontiac for court appointments, treatment and drug testing.

He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted on the drug charges.

# **3 metro teens charged in Mt. Clemens mob attacks**

## **One of the defendants accused of mouthing threats during hearing**

BY AMBER HUNT • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • June 24, 2008

Angela Kauffman scrambled for her phone to call 911.

Her husband had just stepped outside the van she'd been driving, and a group of young men swarmed him. They punched him, knocking him down. Then they began stomping on his head.

"They just kept kicking and kicking," Kauffman testified through tears Monday in the preliminary exam against three of the teenagers police believe were ringleaders in what has been described as a random and brutal mob attack in Mt. Clemens.

"He looked like he was dead," Kauffman said. "He was just laying there, with his eyes open."

Andy Kauffman was one of several men attacked late May 31 and early June 1 in two separate attacks. Three other men were beaten, including Derek Hines, Andy Kauffman's cousin.

The other two victims were beaten in a separate attack about 30 minutes later at a Marathon gas station on Gratiot. Police believe the groups overlapped.

Monday's hearing highlighted how difficult the case could be for prosecutors. One teenage witness already had to be forced to testify against the three teens, and one of the defendants was accused of mouthing threats to that teen while he was on the stand.

Three teens -- Deonte Williams, 17, of Mt. Clemens, Steve Lincoln, 18 and Jemall Davidson, 16, both of Clinton Township -- will face trial on charges of inciting a riot. Lincoln and Davidson each face an attempted murder charge, and Williams is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon.

Lincoln initially hadn't faced the murder charge, but a 16-year-old, who initially refused to testify, said he saw Lincoln stomp on Kauffman's head.

Several witnesses have refused to come forward because they're afraid they'll be attacked if they cooperate, authorities said.



The teen refused to go with two sheriff's deputies sent to get him. District Judge Sebastian Lucido finally convinced him, and ordered media in the room to refrain from using his image or name.

"There was a streetlight over there," the teen said, describing the 11:30 p.m. attack he said he watched from afar. "Steve kicked him once and Jemall kicked him once."

Halfway through the teen's testimony, assistant prosecutor Steve Kaplan jumped up and interrupted, accusing Lincoln of mouthing to the witness, "Don't say a 'effing' thing."

"I don't appreciate the intimidation this defendant is trying to place on my witness!" Kaplan said.

Lucido told him that he could be criminally charged and barred from court proceedings if he's found to be intimidating witnesses.

Charges against a fourth teen were dismissed Monday because Kaplan said the two juvenile witnesses likely won't cooperate.

Williams is accused of throwing the brick that prompted the melee. Youth bureau detective Kenneth Tater of the Macomb County Sheriff's Office said Williams told him he threw the brick at random because he was upset about a girl. In written statements, Davidson and Lincoln pointed to each other as the instigators of the attack, though Lincoln said Kauffman called the teens the N-word, prompting the beating.

When the quote about the epithet was read to the judge -- twice -- Davidson laughed and covered his face.

The morning was thick with emotion as the defendants' families shook their heads and mumbled, saying they believed the teens were innocent.

Contact **AMBER HUNT** at 586-826-7267 or [alhunt@freepress.com](mailto:alhunt@freepress.com).



Tuesday, June 24, 2008

**Clinton Twp.**

## Teens to stand trial in beating

**Defendants say victim used racial slur before fight; prosecutors say attack was just part of a violent spree.**

**Charles E. Ramirez / The Detroit News**

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP** -- As she sat behind the steering wheel of her minivan and fumbled for her mobile phone, Angela Kauffman said she could see a group of young men kicking her husband in the head as he lay on the ground next to their car.

"He was surrounded," she testified Monday in 41-B District Court in Clinton Township, tears in her eyes and fighting back sobs. "They just kicked him repeatedly. I kept hoping (the police) would get there before he died."

Kauffman's testimony came during a hearing to determine if the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office had enough evidence to try three teens in Macomb County Circuit Court for allegedly beating her husband, Andy, and assaulting two other men during a violent spree through Mount Clemens on May 31.

District Court Judge Sebastian Lucido ruled the three defendants -- Steven D. Lincoln, 18, and Jemall R. Davidson, 16, both of Clinton Township, and Deonte Jamal Williams, 17, of Mount Clemens -- will stand trial in circuit court for their alleged participation in the attack. The judge dropped charges against Johnny R. Allor, 17, of Mount Clemens, after prosecutors said they had insufficient evidence to charge him.

The teens are scheduled to appear in court on July 7.

During the hearing, police officers read written statements made by the defendants that said Andy Kauffman used a racial epithet before a fight started.

However, during questioning, the prosecutor's other three witnesses -- including Kauffman's wife and his cousin -- said they did not hear him use any slurs.

Lincoln had been accused of assault and battery and rioting. But at the hearing, prosecutors added a charge of assault with intent to murder to his case. The crime is a felony that carries up to a life sentence.

Davidson has been charged as an adult with a count of assault with intent to murder, a count of rioting and a count of assault and battery. Williams has been accused of destruction of property, assault with a dangerous weapon and rioting.

Police say Lincoln, Davidson and Williams were part of a mob of 20-30 young men who assaulted Andy Kauffman around midnight May 31.

The group was throwing objects onto North River Road near Gibraltar Trade Center, according to police.

Around midnight, a brick went through a side window of the car in which Kauffman, his wife and his cousin Derek Hines were traveling.

Kauffman, got out of the vehicle to investigate, and the group attacked him, police said. The attack left Kauffman, a construction worker, hospitalized with head injuries.

"He's just not the same," she said. "He says things, and you can't understand him."

A short time after that attack, police believe the same group of males assaulted and robbed two other men.

**Find this article at:**

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June 24, 2008

## States turn down U.S. abstinence education grants

### Midday update

*Kevin Freking*  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON - Skeptical states are shoving aside millions of federal dollars for abstinence education, walking away from the program the Bush administration touts for slowing teen sexual activity.

Barely half the states are still in, and two more say they are leaving.

Some \$50 million has been budgeted for this year, and financially strapped states might be expected to want their share. But many have doubts that the program does much, if any good, and they're frustrated by chronic uncertainty that it will even be kept in existence. They also have to chip in state money in order to receive the federal grants.

Iowa Gov. Chet Culver, a Democrat, made his decision to leave based on the congressionally mandated curriculum, which teaches "the social, psychological and health gains of abstaining from sexual activity." Instructors must teach that sexual activity outside of marriage is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects.

"It was just too strict," said Emily Hajek, policy adviser to Culver. "We believe local providers have the knowledge to teach what's going to be best in those situations, what kind of information will help those young people be safe. You cannot be that prescriptive about how it has to be taught."

A federal tally shows that participation in the program is down 40 percent over two years, with 28 states still in. Arizona and Iowa have announced their intention to forgo their share of the federal grant at the start of the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

The program was created by Congress in 1996 as part of welfare reform.

Since 2002, lawmakers have approved 19 short-term extensions - usually for three or six months at a time. But on three occasions, the program was extended for just a few days.

Whatever state officials think of the program's aims, that's not the kind of bureaucratic consistency they need to budget for employees and to put contracts out to bid.

"The funding stream became inconsistent. We didn't know from one quarter to the next whether we'd be getting the rest of the money," said Elke Shaw-Tulloch of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. "We got to the point where we didn't have any infrastructure to put the money to use. At the same time, there was mounting evidence the abstinence programs weren't proving to be effective."

Throw in a rising pregnancy rate among 15-19 year-olds in Idaho - 2,543 pregnancies in 2006 compared with 2,396 in 2004 - and state officials decided last summer it was time to get out.

Stanley Koutstaal, the federal official who oversees the abstinence-only program at the Administration for Children and Family Services, notes that more than half the states still choose to participate. "Obviously, many states still find it valuable and have adopted it as their approach to addressing the sexual activity of teens," he said.

He called for long-term reauthorization of the block grants so that states and their contractors can be

more certain about the future and can plan accordingly.

Some states' officials do speak favorably of the program.

In Georgia, some 250,000 students have participated in abstinence education since 2000 through schools, church groups and nonprofit agencies.

Teachers in Georgia go beyond the abstinence message. They stress community service and doing better in school, said Jen Bennecke, executive director of the governor's office for children and families. Bennecke says the program has led to an almost a 50 percent drop in pregnancy rates for Georgia youth ages 15-17 since the mid-90s.

"We really see abstinence education as a clear, concise and positive message," Bennecke said. "We've presented it as a healthy lifestyle choice."

The abstinence-only grants have been controversial from the start.

Supporters say comprehensive sex education sends a mixed message and that abstinence is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease. Critics say abstinence education simply doesn't stop teens from having sex, and those teens need more information about how to reduce pregnancy and disease.

In April 2007, a federally funded study of four abstinence-only programs by Mathematica Policy Research Inc., found that participants had just as many sexual partners as nonparticipants and had sex at the same median age as nonparticipants. The four programs had taught students about human anatomy and sexually transmitted diseases, helped them improve their communication skills, manage peer pressure, set personal goals and build self-esteem.

For Colorado, the study results sealed the decision to get out of the program. Dr. Ned Calonge, the state's chief medical officer, said Mathematica's methods were the gold standard for scientific studies.

"To show no benefit compared to nothing. That was striking," Calonge said. "These are tax dollars that are going for no useful purpose, and it would not be responsible for us to take those dollars."

Under the program, states have to put up \$3 for every \$4 they get from the federal government. The program, referred to as Title V, is one of three abstinence education programs funded by the federal government. Of the \$50 million budgeted for the program this year, about \$21 million has been distributed.

Koutstaal said the study was instructive on how to improve the program, but it wasn't a signal to scrap it. The study, he noted, focused on middle school children and tracked behavior at the high school level.

"One thing we learned from it was that it may not be enough to do something in middle school and expect that you're going to continue to see positive outcomes in high school," Koutstaal said.

As a result, applicants seeking abstinence education funding through another government program, called Community Based Abstinence Education, are required to show how they will serve high school students and how they will help young people deal with peer pressure.

Longtime critics of abstinence-only education say the dwindling participation is a signal that Congress should abolish the program or change it.

"If Congress isn't getting that message, it's difficult to figure out what will convince them," said William Smith, vice president for public policy at the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States.

# Child safety seat law to expand July 1 in Michigan

ASSOCIATED PRESS • June 24, 2008

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LANSING — Michigan will adopt an expanded child safety seat law for motor vehicle travel July 1. State officials planned to detail the new law today.

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The revised law means children under age 8 will have to travel in some sort of child restraint system unless they have grown to 4-foot-9. Most children between the ages of 4 and 8 will be using booster seats.

More than 30 other states already have expanded their child safety seat laws this decade.

Research suggests proper use of the safety seats provides more protection for children in auto accidents.

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